

Town of Arlington
Office of the Town Clerk
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Arlington, MA 02476



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Absentee Voting Expanded for April 10 Election
Voters concerned about COVID may vote by mail.

State law now clarifies that any person taking precautions relating to COVID-19 qualifies for an absentee ballot by reason of physical disability. You do not need to provide a reason on the form. Any Arlington voter who chooses to vote by mail is encouraged to submit a written request for a ballot as soon as possible.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5 pm, Tuesday April 6. The request must be in a drop box or emailed by 5 pm. A postmark is not sufficient.

How to Request an Absentee Ballot

Residents who wish to vote by absentee ballot can submit the official [Absentee Ballot Application](#) or any written note that includes a request for an absentee ballot for the April election. All requests (forms, letters or handwritten notes) should include the voter's full name and address and must be signed. A typed name or script font cannot be accepted.

The Post Office will **not** forward ballots – you must provide a direct address where the voter receives mail if you want the ballot mailed to a different address.

The absentee ballot application may be mailed, emailed, or placed in a ballot drop box. To email a form it's fine to attach a picture or scan of the signed form. The ballot drop boxes are in their usual locations and can be used to submit voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications and ballots after they are mailed.

- East Arlington - Outside the Fox Branch Library (175 Massachusetts Ave)
- Arlington Center - Town Hall (near the bus stop at Mass Ave and Academy St)
- Arlington Heights - Outside ACMI Studios (85 Park Avenue)

Email: townclerk@town.arlington.ma.us

Mail: Town Clerk, 730 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA 02476

How to Return an Absentee Ballot

Ballots can be mailed (2 first class stamps recommended) or placed in a ballot drop box. The ballot must be received by the Town Clerk before the polls close, so plan ahead when returning your ballot.

The legal deadline to return an absentee ballot is 8 pm on April 10 – postmarks are not sufficient and the ballot drop boxes will be checked and locked at 8 pm.

(continued)

Frequently Asked Questions

If I request a ballot in the mail on April 6, will I get it in time?

A request received on April 6 would be mailed on April 7 and would have to be completed by the voter and returned to a drop box on or before 8 pm on Election Day.

Can I type my name on the signature line?

An online application may be signed using a mouse, finger, or stylus. Typed signatures are not permitted.

Can I use the Vote by Mail form on the Secretary of State's Website?

You can use any form or any signed request. We are not posting the form on our website because Absentee and Vote by Mail are two different systems. Because the legislature changed the law to allow Vote by Mail less than a month from our election, we will not attempt to set up a second system that would require extra steps.

How will I know if my application or ballot has been received?

Unfortunately, despite requests from Town Clerks, Track My Ballot has not been turned on for local elections this spring. Our office cannot answer this personally for every voter. However, if your ballot was mailed to or from out of town we understand your desire to check and suggest that you leave a short voice message (781-316-3070) or email townclerk@town.arlington.ma.us and we will respond as quickly as we can. We need your name (spell the last name) and your address to check.

When will ballots be mailed?

We will start mailing ballots on Monday, March 22 and continue that week as ballots are received.

Do I have to fill out my address twice?

You only need to provide an address in Section 2 for the absentee ballot if you are requesting the ballot be sent to a **different** address. The system defaults to your registered address.

Do I have to provide my phone number?

We strongly advise you to include contact information (either phone or email) in case the Clerk's Office needs to clarify the details of your request, but it's not required. It is especially important if you are requesting a ballot mailed to a different address.

Can I request a ballot and then change my mind on Election Day?

You cannot vote in person if your ballot has been accepted by the Clerk's Office. If you return a ballot and we don't receive it, when you arrive at the precinct the Election Warden will call to verify the status and you may be permitted to vote. If your vote arrives later that day in the mail, it will be rejected since you voted in person.

Can I bring my ballot to the polls on Election Day?

Voted ballots cannot be delivered to the precincts on Election Day. They can be placed in the drop boxes which will be checked throughout the day. Those ballots will be taken to the precincts and counted that night.

Please visit the [Elections page](#) for more information about the April 10 Election.

[Where Do I Vote?](#)

[Am I Registered?](#)